

paragraph:

Demand exists for recording audio information, whose sound quality is higher than that of a conventional CD, on an optical disk and playing back the audio information with higher sound quality than that achieved by the conventional CD. Demand also exists for playing back the optical disk with the same sound quality as that achieved by the conventional CD, through use of a conventional CD player. In other words, there exists demand for an optical disk which is compatible with a conventional CD player and records music information of higher sound quality, as well as demand for a player capable of playing back the optical disk with higher sound quality. Such demands for higher sound quality and compatibility are not confined to CDs but exist for other types of known recording media as well. Further, such demand is not limited to the field of audio but also applies to the field of video.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 17 with the following rewritten

paragraph:

In the recording medium according to the first aspect of the present invention, first data are recorded on one of the signal recording layers, and data relevant to the first data are recorded on the other signal recording layer. Therefore, high-quality, high-resolution data can be produced by merging the relevant data and the first data into a single data set during playback. Alternatively, the relevant data may be recorded as data which can be solely played back and which are higher in quality and resolution than the first data. Further, so long as ordinary CD data are recorded as the first data, the ordinary CD data can be played back.